

**If you think
adventure is
dangerous,
trying working
in Legislation**

MCANJ Annual Conference

April 25, 2024



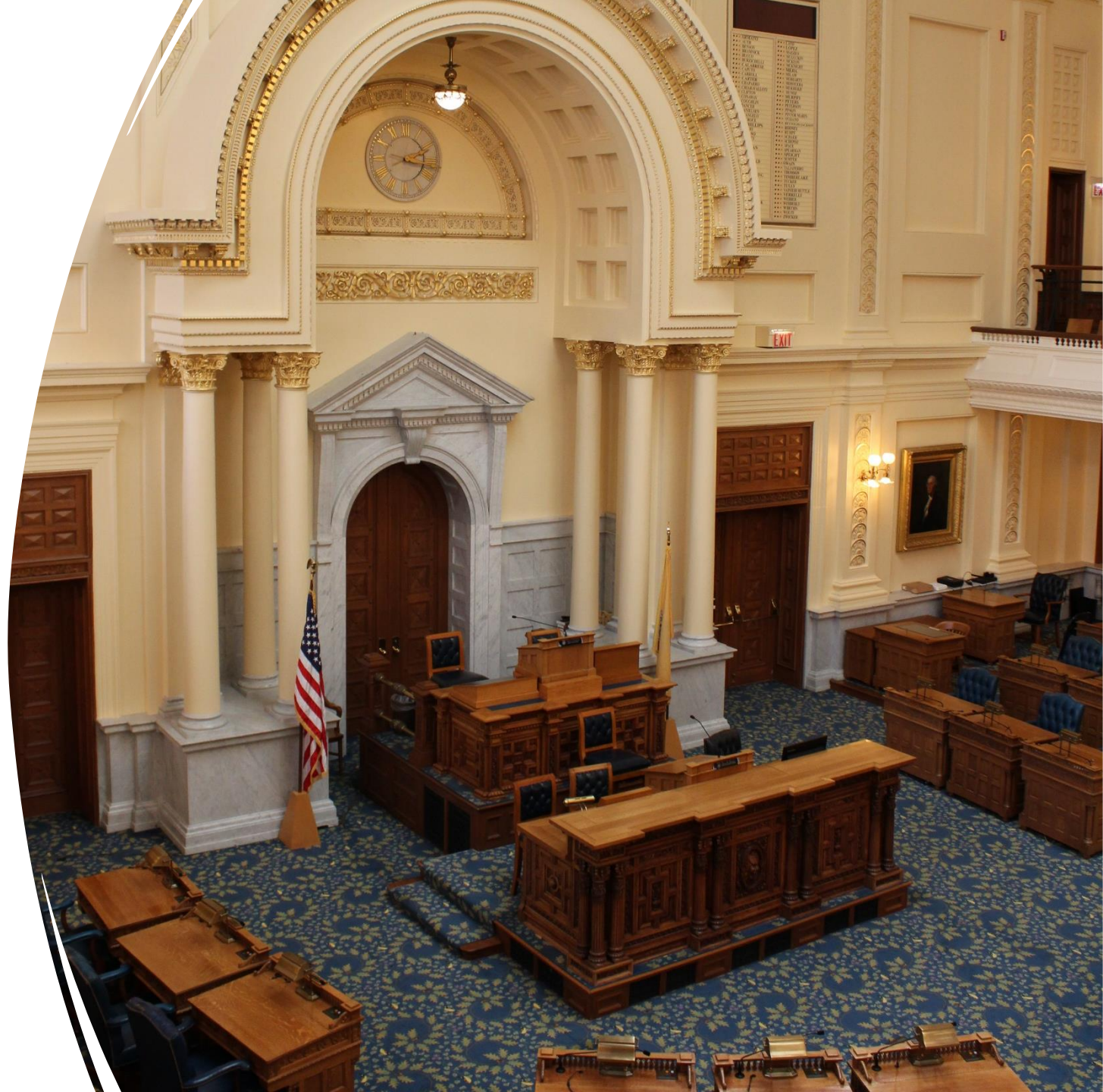


Recap of 220th Legislature 2022-2023

- Jan. 11, 2022 to Jan. 9, 2024
- Bills introduced - 10,590 bills
- Sent to Governor – 545 bills
- Signed by Governor – 519 bills

221st Legislature 2024-2026

- Jan. 9, 2024 to Jan. 13, 2026
- Legislative Leaders
 - Senate President Scutari
 - Senate Republican Leader Bucco
 - Assembly Speaker Coughlin
 - Assembly Republican Leader DiMaio
- 25% of Legislators are new
- 7,905 bills introduced





New Laws

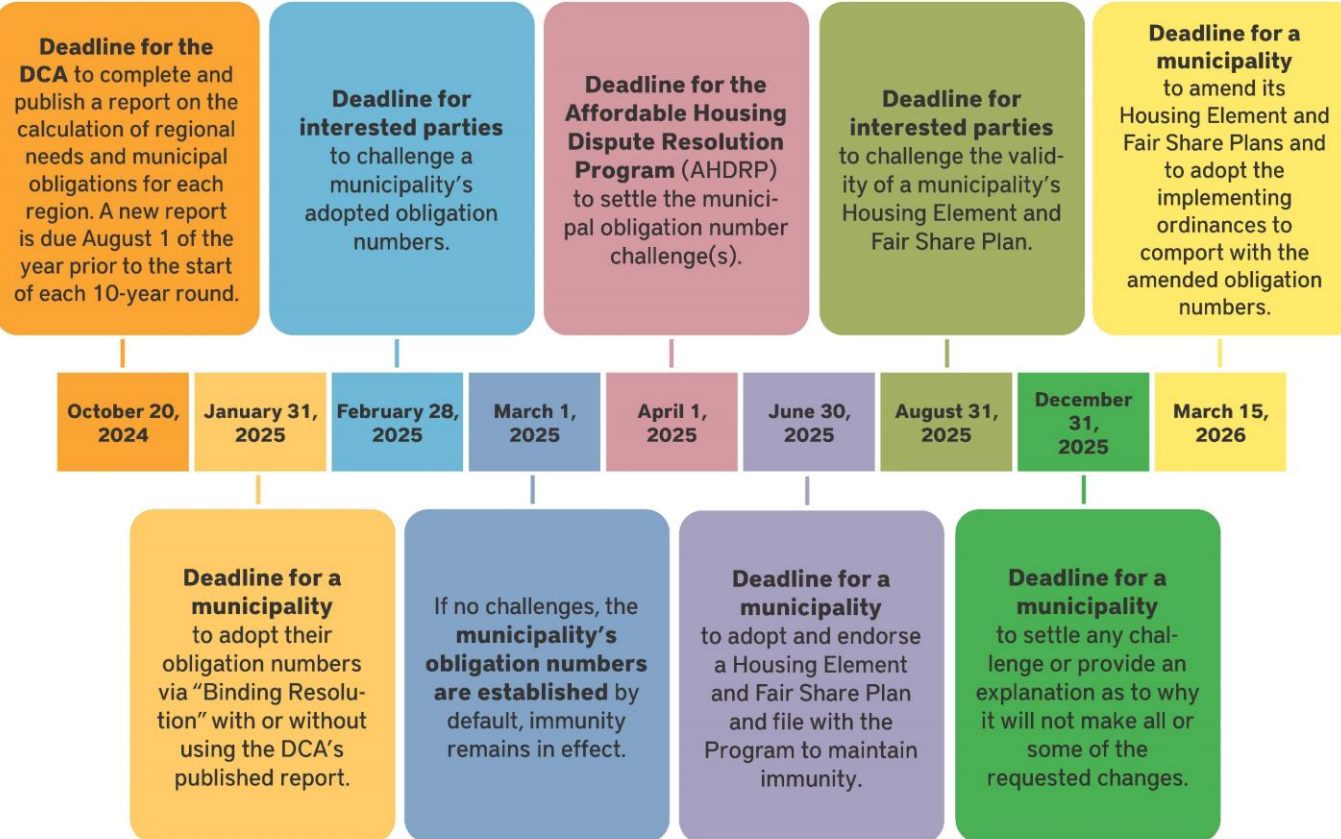


Scan

or visit www.njlm.org/Housing
for more information, up-to-the minute news, and a history of housing in NJ.



FHA/AH Timeline and Deadlines



Local Health Boards (P.L.2023, c.205)

- Permissive
- Applies to Municipalities with population of 30,000 or less
- Permits governing body to serve as local board of health
- Validates the actions and proceedings taken by municipal boards of health made up of governing body members before the adoption of the law.
- The new law took effect on January 8, 2024.

Farmland Firewood (P.L.2023, c.227)

- Does not consider firewood obtained from property other than the seller's farmland as a lumber yard under municipal land use regulations or for other regulatory purposes.
- Prohibits the sale of firewood from outside of the state unless it has been heat-treated and certified as heat-treated and pest-free by the state of origin.
- The law took effect on January 8.

Eliminates Constables ([P.L.2023, c.250](#))

- Eliminates the position of constable
- Removes statutory references to constable
- Existing salary contracts would remain in effect until expiration of contract
- The law took effect on January 8.

Shared Services Agreement ([P.L. 2023, c. 308](#))

- Must file with DLGS
 - Shared service agreements
 - Estimates of anticipated cost savings
- Applies to shared service agreements entered into after January 16, 2024
- Took effect January 16, 2024

Modernization of Open Public Records Act



S-2930/A-4045

- Makes various changes to processes for government records requests and appropriates \$8 million
- Sponsored by
 - Senator Sarlo & Senator Bucco
 - Assemblyman Danielsen & Assemblywoman Flynn
- Released from Senate Budget & Appropriations & Assembly State & Local Government Committee
- Anticipate further action – but when?

Key Provisions

- Prevailing Attorney fees language changes from a “shall” to a “may.”
- Prohibits the use of OPRA for discovery.
- Removes requirement that special service fee be established by ordinance.
- Provides record in medium requested if the public agency maintains the record in the medium or format requested
 - Otherwise the custodian, at their discretion, may either convert to the medium requested or provide record in some other meaningful medium or format.

Key Provisions

- Limits immediate access to records under 12 months.
- Allows providing the requestor with the url if the requested document is available on public agencies' websites.
 - If the requestor does not respond within 7 days, the request is deemed fulfilled.
- Allows denial of OPRA request not submitted on officially adopted OPRA form.
- Prohibits anonymous requestors from filing denial of access complaints.
- Considers OPRA requests not submitted until they are received by the records custodian.

Key Provisions

- Expands response time for OPRA request to 14 business days
 - Commercial requests or
 - if records must be reviewed for compliance with Daniel's Law
- Fines for “knowingly and willful” violations no longer personal but the public agency that employs the records custodian.
- Requires data brokers to register with the State-the State
 - fee will be used to fund grants for posting public records online.
- Requires government records be made available on public websites to the extent feasible.
- Prohibits the selling of data obtained by OPRA.

Key Provisions

- Establishes process for public agency to go to Superior Court for harassing requests.
- Changes Government Records Council (GRC) board composition.
- Creates a Police Records Access Improvement Task Force.
- Creates a section on Election Records.

Key Provisions

- Expands exemptions of records to include:
 - draft material, including notes.
 - security alarm system activity and access reports for any public building, unless the request specifically identifies an incident and limited time period.
 - detailed or itemized cost estimates prior to bid openings.
 - information related to strategies or negotiating positions that would unfairly prejudice or impair contracts negotiations.
 - debit card numbers.
 - bank account information.
 - month and date of birth.
 - email addresses.

Key Provisions

- Expands exemptions of records to include:
 - any portion of document that discloses personal identifying information (includes street address of primary and secondary homes) of persons who provide such information for the sole purpose of receiving official information (e.g., Nixle alerts, newsletters).
 - any portion of a document that discloses personal identifying information of persons 18 years or younger, includes carve-out for car insurance and election information.
 - owner and maintenance manuals.
 - telephone, email, or text logs.
 - electronic or paper calendars.

Next Steps

- Awaiting consideration by
 - Assembly Appropriations
 - Full Senate
 - Full Assembly
- Send copies of settlement agreements to lbuckelew@njlm.org
- Contact your Assembly Representatives & Senators



New Bills

Election Bills

- [A-4253/S-2984](#) Extends closing time of polling places by one hour.
 - Polls would be open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm
 - Early voting would be 10:00 am to 9:00 pm
- [A-4038](#) Requires blank nominating petition forms for municipal candidates to be made available only from municipal clerks
 - Municipal clerks of the respective municipalities where the nominated candidates are to be voted for
 - Applies for both primary & general elections
- [A-4055/S-2865](#) "The Voter Convenience Act"
 - Permits voters to vote at any polling place in their municipality on Election Day.
 - Secretary of State along with County Election officials develop uniform guidelines
 -

Election Bills

- [A-4100/S-3125](#) Local Election Recounts
- Requires automatic recount of any county or municipal election with a vote difference of 10 votes or less
 - Candidate has 24 hours to make the request
 - Recount occurs no later than 3 days after certification of elections
- Gives Chief Justice discretion to create geographic regions for Superior Court judge to adjudicated election recounts & contests
 - Annually no later than Tuesday after Labor Day

Mock Democratic primary ballot



A mockup of what a Democratic primary ballot will look like this year, based on the ballot drawing in Union County for Union Township.

<p>Choice for President 4 Year Term - Vote for One</p>	<p>United States Senator 6 Year Term - Vote for One</p>	<p>Members of Board of County Commissioners 3 Year Term - Vote for Three</p>	<p>Members of Township Committee 3 Year Term - Vote for Two</p>
<p>Joseph R. BIDEN JR. Regular Democratic Organization of Union County</p>	<p>Andy KIM Regular Democratic Organization of Union County</p>	<p>Candidate NAME Slogan</p>	<p>Candidate NAME Slogan</p>
<p>Terrissa BUKOVINAC</p>	<p>Lawrence HAMM People's Needs First</p>	<p>Candidate NAME Slogan</p>	<p>Candidate NAME Slogan</p>
<p>WRITE-IN</p>	<p>Patricia CAMPOS-MEDINA Democrats for Progress</p>	<p>Candidate NAME Slogan</p>	<p>WRITE-IN</p>
	<p>WRITE-IN</p>	<p>WRITE-IN</p>	<p>WRITE-IN</p>
	<p>Member of House of Representatives 2 Year Term - Vote for One</p>	<p>WRITE-IN</p>	<p>Members of Township Committee Unexpired Term - Vote for One</p>
	<p>Sue ALTMAN Regular Democratic Organization of Union County</p>		<p>Candidate NAME Slogan</p>
	<p>WRITE-IN</p>		<p>WRITE-IN</p>

Source: Union County Clerk

Marriage Licenses

- A-4204/[S-2824](#) Permits marriage or civil union license to be obtained in any municipality in State
 - Ceremony must be performed in the State
- A-4252 Limits information required to be provided on marriage or civil union license form.



Public Notices

- A-4231 Requires DCA to establish online, Statewide database of local government unit legal notices.
- [A-3680/S-3045](#) Expands definition of newspaper for required public advertisements to include those published online.
 - Permits publishing of all official notices and advertisements qualified or previously qualified newspapers that are published electronically through the Internet.
 - Requirements that the newspaper be entirely printed in the English language, printed and published within the State of New Jersey, be a newspaper of general paid circulation possessing an average news content of not less than 35%, and have been published continuously in the municipality where its publication office is for not less than two years.

Finance Related Bills

- A-4262 - Exempts creditor from paying municipal property registration fee if property is subject to automatic stay under federal Bankruptcy Code.
- [SCR-100](#) Proposes constitutional amendment to provide property tax exemption for primary residence owned and occupied by surviving spouse of first responder who dies while performing regular or assigned duties.
 - Constitutional amendment
 - Surviving spouse would have to reside in home first responder resided in at time of death

Finance Related Bills

- [A-3360](#) Authorizes establishment of municipal homelessness trust funds and adoption of homeless housing plans by municipalities.
 - Permissive by ordinance for homeless trust funds & resolution for homeless housing plan.
 - Can impose additional fees on building permits, licensing fees & fines
 - Use funds for homeless housing plan
- [A-3953](#) Requires State reimbursement to local government units for first-year uncollected property tax revenue attributable to veterans' property tax exemptions.
 - municipalities, counties, school districts for the assessed value of property taxes that are no longer collectible during the first year in which a person is approved for the 100 percent service-disabled veterans property tax exemption.
 - Must pass resolution
 - Treasury must make payment within 10 days of tax quarter

Finance Related Bills

- [S-2820](#) Requires additional information in assessment notices required to be provided to property taxpayers.
 - *With respect to the prior tax year:* the prior year's taxes; the prior year's final assessment; the Director's ratio of assessed to true value in the taxing district or an assessed to market value ratio of 100 percent if a revaluation or reassessment was implemented; and the implied prior year's market value calculated by dividing the prior year's final assessment by either the Director's ratio, or by 100 percent if a revaluation or reassessment was implemented.
 - *With respect to the current tax year:* the current year's assessment; the Director's ratio of assessed to true value in the taxing district or an assessed to market value ratio of 100 percent if a revaluation or reassessment was implemented; and the estimated market value calculated by dividing the current year's assessment by either the Director's ratio, or by 100 percent if a revaluation or reassessment was implemented.



Q & A

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